

### Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device including a tubular member (~~10, 10', 10''~~) adapted to provide a gas passage into the trachea (~~2~~) through an opening (~~4~~) in neck tissues (~~5~~) and an external retainer (~~13~~) for retaining the tubular member with the external surface (~~7~~) of the neck adjacent the opening (~~4~~), ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the patient end (~~11~~) of the tubular member (~~10, 10', 10''~~) terminates adjacent the internal end of the opening (~~4~~), and that the device includes an internal retainer (~~14, 45, 59, 61~~) for retaining the tubular member with the internal surface (~~6~~) of the trachea adjacent the opening.
2. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the device includes a seal (~~3, 60~~) for substantially sealing the trachea above the opening (~~4~~) into the trachea.
3. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 2, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the seal (~~3, 60~~) includes a fluid passage (~~34~~) opening at one end above the seal and extending out of the trachea via the opening (~~4~~).
4. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 3, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the fluid passage (~~34~~) is a suction passage.
5. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 4~~ Claim 2, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the seal (~~3, 60~~) includes a deformable annular ring (~~30, 60~~) arranged to engage the surface (~~6~~) of the trachea (~~2~~).
6. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the annular ring (~~30, 60~~) is inflatable.

7. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 5, characterised characterized in that the annular ring (30, 60) includes a resilient foam.
8. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of Claims 5 to 7~~ Claim 5, characterised characterized in that the seal (3) includes a web (31) extending across the ring (30).
9. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterised characterized in that the external retainer is a flange (13) and that the internal retainer is a displaceable member (14, 45).
10. (Currently Amended) A tracheostomy device according to Claim 9, characterised characterized in that the displaceable member is a hinged tab (14), and that the tab is connected with a cord (18) by which the tab can be displaced.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Sept 20, 2005